



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/738,319	12/17/2003	Patrick M. Bailey	LENX-0002	7917
27964	7590	10/17/2007		
HITT GAINES P.C. P.O. BOX 832570 RICHARDSON, TX 75083			EXAMINER NATALINI, JEFF WILLIAM	
			ART UNIT 2858	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 10/17/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docket@hittgaines.com

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/738,319

Applicant(s)

BAILEY ET AL.

Examiner

Jeff Natalini

Art Unit

2858

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford et al. (5986558).

In regard to claim 1, Crawford et al. discloses a centralized connector module (shown in figure 2a, element 30; also shown in a box diagram as element 12 in figure 1), comprising:

a body (figure 2a element 30; also shown as element 12 in figure 1) having interconnected terminal sets corresponding to components connectable thereacross (figure 1 elements 18) and configured to provide terminating points (figure 1 element 14, fuse will connect the power supply to the equipment) for said components (figure 1 element 20) for continuous operation thereof (equipment is operating normally; col 27-33), said centralized connector module incapable of controlling said components (no control takes place in the module); continuity indicator circuits within said body and associated with at least some of said terminal sets, the indicator circuits configured to indicate continuity with respect to connected one of said components (figure 4 and 5 element 96 and column 4 line 43-49, the LED will light up if there is a short, which is a type of

Art Unit: 2858

continuity fault; figure 4 and 5 show a body that represents element 18 in figures 1 and 2, col 4 lien 50-54)

Crawford et al. lacks specifically stating wherein the body is a dielectric body.

It is obvious that the body shown in figure 2a element 30 and the box element 12 in figure 1, would be a dielectric. Commonly in the art, surge protectors and similar devices are encased in plastic. This is common when dealing with devices providing a live current through the body, because if the body was also a conductor it would shock the operator if in proximity to the casing. Therefore, It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Crawford et al. to have a dielectric body in order to properly encase the live wires/devices in the body to avoid injury or unwanted shock to an operator.

In regard to claim 7, Crawford et al. discloses wherein said terminal sets remain functional upon a failure of any of said continuity indicator circuits (figure 4, if the LED 96 does not light up, it does not prevent the fuses from performing their function)

3. Claims 2, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford et al. (5986558) in view of Cheek et al. (3728616).

In regard to claims 2, 4, and 6, Crawford et al. specifically discloses that the continuity indicator circuits comprise of diodes (figure 4 and 5 element 96)

Crawford et al. lacks specifically stating that some of the terminal sets are connected in series and wherein the continuity circuits have impedances based on illuminating light emitting diodes, wherein voltage indicator circuits are associated with the output terminals sets to indicate an operation of corresponding ones of said components.

Cheek et al. discloses wherein the terminal sets are connected in series (fig 1 (R11 in series with R21 which is in series with R22, etc. ) and wherein the continuity circuits have impedances based on illuminating light emitting diodes (col 3 line 35-41 and line 61- col 4 line 7), wherein voltage indicator circuits are associated with the output terminals sets to indicate an operation of corresponding ones of said components (abstract).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Crawford et al. to include terminal sets connected in series where a light is illuminated in association with the detection, wherein voltage indicator circuits are associated with output terminals of the components as taught by Cheek et al. in order to test for wiring errors in a plurality of pairs of terminals (abstract) so that it can be determined which particular connections are defective or fine (col 3 line 61 – col 4 line 7).

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford et al. (5986558) in view of Collier et al. (6323652).

Crawford et al. discloses a power supply (figure 1 element 10).

Art Unit: 2858

Crawford et al. lacks specifically wherein an AC Power In terminal set is associated with a voltage indicator circuit and configured to indicate a presence of a voltage thereacross.

Collier et al. discloses wherein an AC Power In terminal set (provided by an outlet) associated with a voltage indicator circuit and configured to indicate a presence of a voltage thereacross (col 8 line 1-3).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Crawford et al. to have an AC power in terminal set associated with a voltage indicator circuit as taught by Collier et al. in order to indicate that the level of the power supply is adequate (col 8 line 2-3).

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tiller et al. (20050207079) is not considered 'prior' art, but is pertinent as it discloses a device that is connected to equipment/appliances and provides determination of the continuity.

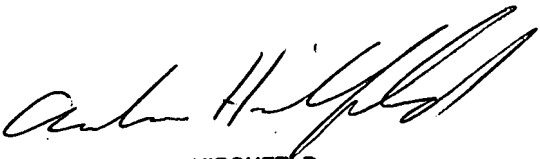
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeff Natalini whose telephone number is 571-272-2266. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

Art Unit: 2858

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jeff Natalini



ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800